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John E. Jones

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EXAMINER

BHATNAGAR, ANAND P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/638,231	Applicant(s) JONES ET AL.	
	Examiner ANAND BHATNAGAR	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-26, 28-38, 41-43, 46-48, 51-53 and 56-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-26, 28-38, 41-43, 46-48, 51-53 and 56-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/31/07&12/17/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2624

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 08/06/07 has been entered and made of record.
2. Applicant has amended claims 1, 11-14, 17, 19-22, 30, 33, 35-37, 41, 42, 46, 47, 52, and 56. Applicant has added four new claims(#57-#60). Applicant has canceled claims 10, 27, 39, 40, 44, 45, 49, 50, 54, and 55. Currently, claims 1-9, 11-26, 28-38, 41-43, 46-48, 51-53, and 56-60 are pending.
3. Applicant in essence argues, regarding claim 1, and similarly for claims 22, 37, 42, 47, and 52, that that the prior art of Paraskevagos (U.S. patent 7,006,664, referred to as "Par") does not teach the feature of a "processor operable to create a data file comprising one or more currency bill images, wherein each currency bill image is tagged with the extracted serial number of that currency bill and the identifier of the transaction involving that currency bill." Examiner agrees that this is not taught by the prior art of Par. but claim 1, and similarly claims 47 and 52, as amended, bring in a **new** limitation specifically of "a processor communicatively coupled to an image scanner/device," respectively, requiring a further search by the examiner. Examiner refers to the rejection below.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2624

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1-9, 11-26, 28-38, 41-43, 46-48, 51-53, and 56-60 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paraskevacos (U.S. patent 7,006,664 B2, will be further referred to as Par), and further in view of Baird (EP 1041523A2).

Regarding claims 1 and 22: Par. discloses a currency bill scanning device (Par.; fig. 4 element 33 and col. 2 lines 9-25), comprising:

a receptacle for holding currency bills (Par.; fig. 2 elements 25-29, wherein some if not all of these machines have at least one receptacle to put money into);

means for obtaining an identifier for a transaction involving one or more of the currency bills (Par.; col. 2 lines 30-35, wherein a tag is obtained to identify the transaction and track the money. The tag is read as the identifier.);

an image scanner operable to obtain an image from at least one side of a received currency bill and to extract a serial number of the received currency bill from the image (Par.; col. 2 lines 11-25); and

Par. does not teach “a processor communicatively couples to the image scanner, the processor operable to create a data file comprising the one or more currency bill images, wherein each currency bill image is tagged with the extracted serial number of that currency bill and the identifier of the transaction involving that currency bill to allow for the involved one or more currency bills to be subsequently traced by serial number to that transaction.” Baird teaches

Art Unit: 2624

wherein a processor is coupled to an imaging scanner/device wherein the processor creates an image record, i.e. file, of the currency bill, a transaction identifier and one aspect of the transaction detail, such as the value of the currency or can be another transaction detail, i.e. serial number, time, location, etc., in order to track this transaction and the user performing the transaction (Baird; abstract, figure, paragraphs 0006, 0008, **0012**, and 0016). It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to combine the teaching of Baird to that of Par. because they are analogous in the field of financial transactions. One ordinary skilled in the art would have been motivated to incorporate the teaching of Baird into the system of Par. to have a more accurate system to prevent fraud/counterfeiting.

Regarding claims 2 and 23: The device wherein the image scanner obtains at least a partial image of each currency bill (Par.; col. 2 lines 9-25).

Regarding claims 3 and 24: The device wherein the partial image is obtained of each side of each currency bill (Par.; col. 2 lines 9-25).

Regarding claims 4 and 25: The device wherein the image scanner obtains a full image of each currency bill (Par.; col. 2 lines 9-25).

Regarding claims 5 and 26: The device wherein the full image is obtained of each side of each currency bill (Par.; col. 2 lines 9-25).

Regarding claim 6: The device wherein the means for obtaining the identifier comprises a data entry device (Par.; col. 2 lines 27-54, it is obvious that

in order to trace a transaction and/or track the currency the data must be kept in memory for this process, i.e. data entered).

Regarding claim 7: The device wherein the data entry device is a keypad (Par.; fig. 2 element 19).

Regarding claim 8: The device wherein the data entry device is a card reader (Par.; col. 3 lines 1-4, wherein an ATM, automated banking machine, is a machine in the method. It is obvious that ATM accepts a customers card and enters the data of the customer into memory for record keeping).

Regarding claim 9: The device wherein the data entry device is a biometric scanner (Par.; fig. 8 element 96).

Regarding claims 11 and 28: The device further including a currency bill denomination discriminator (Par.; col. 2 lines 27-28).

Regarding claims 12 and 29: The device wherein the denomination discriminator is operative to extract a bill denomination value from the image (Par.; col. 2 lines 27-28).

Regarding claims 13 and 30: The device further including a transport mechanism adapted to transport the one or more currency bills, one at a time, from an input receptacle past the image scanner, to at least one output receptacle (Par.; figs. 5 and 6, the transport carrier).

Regarding claims 14 and 31: The device wherein the currency bills are transported by the transport mechanism with a narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport (Par.; figs 5 and 6, wherein the currency is transported.).

Regarding claims 15 and 32: Par. does not teach the feature of "wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of output receptacles." It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the system to have one or more input and/or output receptacles depending on customer requirements. One in the art would have been motivated to incorporate multiple receptacles in order to perform multiple transactions of a plurality of customers and to keep the documents of each customer separate.

Regarding claim 16: The device further including a controller adapted to control the operation of the device (Par.; fig. 2 element 3, wherein the CPU controls the process).

Regarding claims 17 and 33: The device of further including a memory for storing data file (Par.; col. 2 lines 27-37 and Baird; figure element 36).

Regarding claims 18 and 34: The device further comprising an interface through which the data file is communicated from the device to a computer (Par.; fig. 2 wherein the information/data is communicated with a computer).

Regarding claim 19: The device wherein the image scanner extracts a denomination of the currency bill that is further included in the data file (Par.; col. 2 lines 27-37).

Regarding claims 20 and 35: The device wherein the image scanner extracts a Federal Reserve Bank number of the currency bill that is further included in the data file (Par.; col. 2 lines 27-54).

Regarding claims 21 and 36: The device wherein the image scanner extracts a signatory on the currency bill that is further included in the data file (Par.; col. 2 lines 27-54).

Regarding claims 37, 38, 41-43, 46-48, 51-53, and 56: These claims are rejected for reasons in claims 1-36, respectively, since these claims are broader versions of these claims.

Regarding claim 57: A device for distributing currency bills, comprising:
a control panel for obtaining an identifier for a currency bill distribution transaction (Baird; paragraph 0024, a user interface is read as a controller and once the transaction starts an transaction identifier is generated for that transaction);

a mechanism for distributing a number of currency bills for that transaction (Baird; paragraph 0002, and ATM distributes currency);

an imaging device operable to at least partially image each distributed currency bill and extract a currency bill serial number (see claim 1); and

a processor communicatively coupled to the imaging device, the processor operable for linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the distributed currency bill(s) and the transaction identifier so as to allow the distributed currency bills to be traced to a certain transaction by their serial number (see claim 1).

Regarding claim 58: A device for receiving currency bills, comprising:

a control panel for obtaining an identifier for a currency bill reception transaction (Baird; paragraph 0024, a user interface is read as a controller and once the transaction starts an transaction identifier is generated for that transaction);

a mechanism for receiving a number of currency bills for that transaction; an imaging device operable to at least partially image each received currency bill and extract a currency bill serial number (see claim 1 and Baird; paragraph 0002, wherein an ATM receives/distributes currency based on the transaction by the user); and

a processor communicatively coupled to the imaging device, the processor operable for linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the received currency bill(s) and the transaction identifier so as to allow the received currency bills to be traced to a certain transaction by their serial number (see claim 1).

Regarding claim 59: The device of further including a memory for storing the data file (see claim 17).

Regarding claim 60: The method further comprising storing the data file (see claim 17).

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.**

See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANAND BHATNAGAR whose telephone number is (571)272-7416. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 571-272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2624

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Anand Bhatnagar/
March 30, 2008